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INFORMATION REPORT OF RMA POLY FEP, K7

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had a carrying capacity of about a ton or ton and a half. They were much like the small Fiat trucks used by the Italian Army. In the area by the quay, there were several such trucks as well as piles of scrap iron. The warehouses between the petroleum pier and the breakwater were, however, completely empty. Farther to the west, lying idle at the quay, was a Soviet Liberty ship and a Soviet passenger liner taking on and discharging passengers.

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all loading and offloading was accomplished with ship's tackle.

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4. Also at the southern quay, there were three or four tugs which were used for harbor work. At the small western quays, there were a number of small craft, such as fishing boats, etc. At a pier near the naval shipyard, there were some small naval craft of the MTB type.
5. No rail traffic was noted and the motor vehicles used around the pier were old.
6. The area bounded on the north by the breakwater must be used as a small arms firing range. [redacted] ship was in Batumi, frequent firing of automatic arms took place. The targets were near the breakwater. No fortifications or radar installations were in evidence. [redacted] there must be some fortifications in defense of the city on the hills fringing the city where some castle-like structures could be seen. [redacted] in port, there was a searchlight in operation at such a great distance to the north of the port that only its beam was visible. [redacted] it was located near Fort Svyatoy Nikolay up toward Poti. Coastal artillery firing was taking place south of Batumi [redacted] Salvoes were followed by long periods of silence. When the guns fired, the flashes were visible in the harbor. The guns appeared to be located at the mouth of the Chorokh River, but no surface targets, nor any aerial targets were in evidence. Some planes were flying at great altitudes over Batumi.
7. The departure inspection was accomplished and the vessel left the harbor on 9 April. The ship was loaded to half capacity with sprint oil [redacted] The little MTB which had met the vessel at sea and accompanied it into the port, accompanied it out to the territorial water limit. It did not appear to come from Batumi, but rather from a point near the mouth of the Chorokh River.
8. During the stay in Batumi, the crew members were allowed ashore until 2400 hours. They could take ashore any foreign currency they wished and it would be exchanged at the bank at the regular rate. Food prices were rather high and the standard of living of the people was very low. Merchants at the city market were selling goods in very small amounts, e.g., a man was selling rice by the glassful from a bag, another had about a dozen potatoes, etc. Theoretically, there were no restrictions on the amount of food that could be sold to ships but, unavailability limited the actual quantities that were sold. [redacted] it was possible to buy gold at a jewelry store in town but inquiries of the natives did not succeed in the location of said store. [redacted] foreign currency was highly desired by the Soviets and that, that is the reason they

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were so happy to change foreign currency. The black market seemed to be prospering; [redacted] in the Soviet Union, as in any country, one who had money could live and eat in luxury.

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9. There were many naval personnel in town but few soldiers.

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Bartskhana River



tanker

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Soviet steamship

Targets

Target
firing
range

ship

tanker

Soviet tanker

tanker

Soviet liberty
ship

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Soviet passenger
liner

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Tugs

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Naval craft

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